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"Mastermind" Behind Series of Arson Attacks Pleads Guilty in Pot Dispensary Case

The mastermind behind a conspiracy to seek revenge on a rival medical marijuana dispensary owner and his family has pleaded guilty, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Andrew Harrison Kramer, 39, pleaded guilty on Thursday to conspiracy to commit home invasion robbery, stalking and attempt to burn. In addition, he pleaded guilty to three counts of arson of an inhabited structure and two counts of arson, and he admitted allegations that an accelerant was used, said Deputy District Attorney Renee Rose with the Arson Unit.

The West Hollywood resident will be sentenced to 25 years in state prison when he returns to court on April 9 for sentencing before Judge Michael Pastor. Kramer also will face restitution that could total as much as \$1 million, Rose said.

Kramer admitted hiring people who in turn attacked his former business partner, George Lanning, and Lanning's entire family, including his wife and three adult children.

Between July 2008 and April 2012, the family's Beverly Hills home was set ablaze on two separate occasions; a Lanning-owned house under construction on San Vicente Boulevard was destroyed by an arson fire; and two Molotov cocktails were thrown onto an apartment roof above the Lanning's medical marijuana dispensary in West Hollywood.

On another occasion, four males entered the Lanning's Beverly Hills home and struck Lanning's wife, Nansee, in the head with a metal bar and punched and kicked his son, Justin.

The arsons and attacks were investigated by the Beverly Hills Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.